



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



Home

Meetings

Members

Officers

Newsletter

E. Iowa DX Bulletin

Buy-Sell-Trade

DXCC Card Checking

About EIDX

History

Constitution & Bylaws

DX Resources

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 315, February 27, 2026

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section (updated as conditions warrant) and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

This bulletin is available via email subscription only. See

<http://www.arrl.org/bulletins> to subscribe. (The online archive is no longer updated.)

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

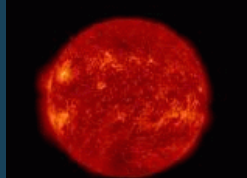
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

28 Feb 2026 1808 GMT
SFI: 139 SN: 44
A-Index: 10
K-Index: 2
X-Ray: C1.9
304A: 128.9 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 11
Elc Flx: 2540
Aurora: 3/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): -1.7
Solar Wind: 375.4
Geomag Field QUIET
Sig Noise Lvl S1-S2
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
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5406

DX News

3B8, MAURITIUS. Matt, DL5PT, is QRV as **3B8/DL5PT** from Flic-en-Flac **until the end of March**.

Activity is in his spare time on 20 through 10 meters using FT8. QSL to [DL5PT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 29, 2026] (0130-0327)

3B8, MAURITIUS I. Suvarna, VU3OPT (OMØGA) is currently QRV as **3B8G** from Mauritius Island (AF-049) **until March 30th**. He operates CW and has been reported on 20, 15 and especially 10 meters so far. See <https://www.9n7ga.com/> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1817 February 28, 2026] (0227-0403)

3Y, BOUVET. The **3YØK** team departed Cape Town on February 21st aboard the Argus and arrived at Bouvet on February 27th at around 0830 UTC after a somewhat bumpy voyage. The weather and sea state is still not favorable for us to start going onshore today, the team reports. During our daily meeting today with the captain, pilots and expedition crew, we discussed the weather forecast. During the last few days, we have stayed in an area with adverse weather and waves up to 8-10 meters, which is the reason for us slowing down the speed. The vessel is handling the sea very well and we are all satisfied with that. We are currently looking into a weather window on Saturday and Sunday, and as long as the conditions don't change, it is likely we will make an effort to go onshore this weekend. The pilots and crew are ready and confident in the machine, and we will now start our final preparations. At this stage we cannot tell when we will be on the air. The main priority is to focus on the upcoming weather windows, get the gear and people onto the island and secure the camp with tents and provisions - before the radio/antenna installation starts. Our pilot James, KB2FMH will inform all when we are QRV. -[425DXN # 1817 February 28, 2026] (0227-0313)

4S, SRI LANKA. Peter, DCØKK is QRV as **4S7KKG** until **March 31st**. Activity is on 60 through 6 meters using FT8, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL to [DCØKK](#), [ClubLog's QQRS](#), LoTW. -[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 22, 2026] (0123-0403)

5N, NIGERIA. Bodo, DF8DX, is due to perform service tasks at the Voice of Nigeria Broadcasting site from **March 1st to 10th**. QRV as **5N7QBR** with 100W and possibly the large BC transmit antennas. Bodo also uses the QO-100 satellite. QSL via [DF8DX](#), [ClubLog's QQRS](#), LoTW. -[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0313)

8Q, MALDIVES. Lubo, OM5ZW and Laco, OM4WM will be QRV as **8Q7ZW** from Thulusdhoo Island (AS-013) from **February 28th to March 12th**. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via [ClubLog's QQRS](#), LoTW. -[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 26, 2026] (0227-0313)

9G, GHANA. Arno, DL1CW, planned to continue operating as **9G5ZZ** until **March 3rd** but is now **off the air** due to a broken transceiver. His operating permit is good until 2031 and he hopes to return to Ghana eventually for more QSOs. -[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0303)

9M2, WEST MALAYSIA. Mike, **9M2/KM9D** has been casual operating from Teluk Kelubi Beach on Rebak Island (AS-058), West Malaysia since February 13th. **Length of stay unknown**. He operates CW low power (10 watts) on various bands. QSL via LoTW. -[425DXN # 1817 February 28, 2026] (0227-0320)

DL, GERMANY. Celebrating a half-century of German research in Antarctica, special callsigns **DAØANT**, **DM5ØANT** and **DP5ØANT** will be active from **February 15th to April 30th**. In addition, **DM5ØGFS** will also be active on **April 1st-30th** (for the 50th anniversary of the Georg Forster Station, established by the GDR in 1976 and decommissioned in 1993), as well as **DP2ØØGVN** (for the bicentenary of the birth of Georg von Neumayer, after whom three German Antarctic research stations have been named). See <https://50ant.hamaward.de/en/german-antarctic-research/> for complete information on the "50 Years of German Antarctic Research" award. -[425DXN # 1814 February 7, 2026] (0213-0501)

DL, GERMANY. To celebrate the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games Milano Cortina 2026, the DARC Team SES will be active as **DD2Ø26OWG** (**February 1st - March 1st**) and **DD2Ø26WPG** (**March 1st - April 1st**). QSL via [DK5ON](#), LoTW and DCL (DARC Community Logbook). -[425DXN # 1811 January 17, 2026] (0130-0403)

DU, PHILIPPINES. Bob, KB7TX, is QRV as **DU9/KB7TX** from Mindanao (OC-130) until **March 1st**. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW. -[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 5, 2026] (0206-0306)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of February 26, 2026:

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------|------------------|
| 1. P5 | DPRK (North Korea) | 11. KH4 | Midway Island |
| 2. KH3 | Johnston Island | 12. VKØM | Macquarie Island |

3. KH7K	Kure Island	13. EZ	Turkmenistan
4. CEØX	San Felix Islands	14. KP5	Desecheo Island
5. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	15. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
6. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. YK	Syria
8. YVØ	Aves Island	18. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
9. BV9P	Pratas Island	19. FT/T	Tromelin Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. VKØH	Heard Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF February 27, 2026] (0227-0320)

EA8, CANARY IS. Jeff, VA3QSL, is now active as **EA8/VA3QSL** until March 8th. QSL via [VA3QSL](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0313)

ET, ETHIOPIA. Ken, K4ZW, is expected on the air as **ET3AA** (CW exclusively) until March 2nd during his spare time. QSL via [N2OO](#).

-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0306)

ET, ETHIOPIA. Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society station **ET3AA** has been active on 30 meters FT8 between 0400 and 0530z. QSL via [N2OO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 19, 2026] (0220-0313)

F, FRANCE. Francois, F8DVD will be active as **TM23AAW** from February 16th to March 2nd to promote the 23rd Antarctic Activity Week (February 16th-22nd). He will be QRV on 40-10 meters from his home QTH in France. QSL via [F8DVD](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1814 February 7, 2026] (0213-0306)

FJ, ST. BARTHELEMY. Andreas, DK6AS is QRV as **FJ/DK6AS** until sometime in March. Activity is on 80 through 6 meters using CW, FT8, and FT4. This includes being an entry in the ARRL CW DX contest (February 21st-22nd). QSL via [DK6AS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 19, 2026] (0220-0313)

FM, MARTINIQUE. Francis, F6BWJ, is QRV as **FM/F6BWJ** from Sainte Luce until March 23rd. Activity is mostly on 12 and 10 meters using CW. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 6 February 12, 2026] (0213-0327)

FY, FRENCH GUIANA. Yves, F5PRU and also 6W1TA, relocated to French Guiana some years ago and now plans to get back on the air as **FY8BP** with plans for activating rare locations in the country on CW, SSB, and maybe also digital modes. QSL via [6W1TA](#) or REF bureau.

-[DXNL # 2497 February 11, 2026] (0213-0306)

H4, SOLOMON IS. Bernhard, DL2GAC, will be QRV as **H44MS** from Manakwai Village on Malaita Island (OC-047) from January 18th to April 15th. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL to [DL2GAC](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 15, 2026] (0116-0417)

HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Flavio, IW2NEF will be active holiday style as **HI7/IW2NEF** from Bayahibe, Dominican Republic (NA-096) from February 28th to March 7th. He will operate SSB and FT8/FT4 on 40-6 meters. QSL direct to [IK2DUW](#).

-[425DXN # 1817 February 28, 2026] (0227-0306)

I, ITALY. Members of ARI Milano, ARI Cadore and ARI Brunico/Bruneck will activate four special callsigns **I2WOG**, **I3COR**, **I3WOG**, and **I3BIA** from February 6th to March 22nd for the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games Milano Cortina 2026. Certificates and eQSLs will be available on <https://hamaward.cloud/>. QSL I2WOG via [IQ2MI](#), I3COR via [IQ3DD](#), I3WOG and I3BIA via [IQ3ED](#).

-[425DXN # 1810 January 10, 2026] (0206-0327)

J5, GUINEA-BISSAU. A group of operators are QRV as **J51A** from Bubaque Island (AF-020) until March 15th. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/J51A> for updates. QSL via [DJ4MX](#) or [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 26, 2026] (0227-0320)

J7, DOMINICA. Haluk, TA2LE will be QRV as **J79H** from **March 2026 until March 2027**. Details will be posted on his website at <https://j79h.ta2le.tr/>. QSL via LoTW and [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0320)

JA, JAPAN. Moto, JA1GZV will be active again as **JS6UKY/6** from Miyako Island (AS-079) and Okinawa Island (AS-017) from **February 24th to March 6th**. He will operate CW on or around 7011, 10123, 14011, 18075, 21011, 24897, and 28011 kHz. QSL via JS6UKY (bureau), eQSL, or direct to [JA1GZV](#).

-[425DXN # 1816 February 21, 2026] (0220-0306)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, **JG8NQJ/JD1** expects to be back to the weather station on Minami Torishima (OC-073) from **February 26th until mid-May**. In his limited spare time, he will operate mainly CW with some FT8 (note that he wants you to call with your signal report, not your grid square). QSL via [JA8CJY](#) (direct), JG8NQJ (bureau) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1815 February 14, 2026] (0220-0508)

KH6, HAWAII. Fred, NA2U will be QRV as **KH7M** in both ARRL International DX contests: CW on **February 21st-22nd** and SSB on **March 7th-8th**. QSL direct to [NA2U](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 19, 2026] (0220-0313)

KP5, DESECHEO. Due to adverse weather conditions, the Desecheo DXpedition **KP5/NP3VI** will extend their activity to **March 3rd**.

-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0306)

LU, ARGENTINA. Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano will be active as **LU4AAO** and other callsigns from **February 28th to March 8th** to celebrate the club's 58th anniversary. See http://lu4aao.org/58_aniv_lu4aao.htm for more information. Awards and a special QSL are available.

-[425DXN # 1816 February 21, 2026] (0227-0313)

OZ, DENMARK. Special callsign **OZ1000OZ** commemorates the first licensed Danish amateur radio activity 100 years ago. QRV **March 1st to 8th**. For more information see:

<https://www.qrz.com/db/OZ1000OZ>. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or [OZ1ACB](#).

-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0313)

PJ2, CURACAO. Andre, PD1DRE will be active again as **PJ2/PD1DRE** from Curacao (SA-099) from **January 26th to March 4th**. He operates SSB and FT8/FT4. QSL via eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1812 January 24, 2026] (0123-0306)

PJ2, CURACAO. Thaire, W2APF will be active as **PJ2/W2APF** from Curacao (SA-099) from **January 22nd to March 31st**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [W2APF](#).

-[425DXN # 1811 January 17, 2026] (0116-0403)

T8, PALAU. Watch for Mune/JI3DNN (**T88CZ**), Kuni/JH3LSS/JA1CJA (**T88DK**) and Masu/JA3AVO (**T88MB**) operating from the VIP Guest Hotel on Koror Island (OC-009) from **February 25th to March 5th**.

-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0306)

T8, PALAU. Czech DXpedition Team members OK1BOA, OK2ZA, OK3RM and OK6DJ will be active as **T8OK** from Palau on **March 4th-19th**. They will operate CW, FT8, SSB and RTTY on 160-10 meters, plus 6m. Full LoTW upload after six months. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [OK6DJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1815 February 14, 2026] (0227-0320)

TL, CENTRAL AFRICA. Joao, CR7BNW, is QRV as **TL8BNW** until **June 1st**. Pending the arrival of new equipment this weekend, he plans to upgrade his station's capabilities for a specialized run on 160 meters. From **February 4th to 14th**, he will temporarily modify his dipole antenna to focus **exclusively on 160m** SSB and digital modes. After that period, he will reconfigure the dipole to restore its standard multi-band functionality, returning to his regular operations on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1813 January 31, 2026] (0130-0306)

TY, BENIN. Gerard, F5NVF, is QRV as **TY5GG** until April 6th. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 29, 2026] (0130-0410)

TZ, MALI. Ulmar, DK1CE will be active again as **TZ1CE** from Bamako, Mali from February 10th to March 1st. He will operate mainly SSB and FT8, with a focus on 160m FT8, 80m FT8 and 6 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to Club Log on a daily basis, and to LoTW after the operation. QSL via [DK1CE](#).
-[425DXN # 1814 February 7, 2026] (0206-0306)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Chris, WA7RAR will be active as **V4/WA7RAR** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from February 21st to March 7th. He will operate SSB and CW on 20-10 meters, also with portable activity from various POTA sites. QSL via LoTW, QRZ Logbook, or direct to [WA7RAR](#).
-[425DXN # 1815 February 14, 2026] (0220-0306)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Tom, KØYA and his wife Toni, W5RCX will be active again as **V4/KØYA** and **V4/W5RCX** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from February 4th to March 9th. Activity will be holiday style on 160-6 meters CW, SSB, FT8, FT4. Look for Tom to participate as **V47Y** in both legs of the ARRL International DX Contest, CW (February 21st-22nd) and SSB (March 7th-8th). QSL via LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1813 January 31, 2026] (0130-0313)

V5, NAMIBIA. Gunter, DK2WH is QRV as **V51WH** near Omaruru until March 24th. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters. QSL to [DK2WH](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 26, 2026] (0227-0327)

VE, CANADA. Pierre, VK3KTB will be active again as **VYØERC** from the Eureka Amateur Radio Club station on Ellesmere Island (NA-008) from March 5th to April 1st. He operates SSB, CW and FT8 on various bands when time permits. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#) and LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1817 February 28, 2026] (0227-0403)

VP2E, ANGUILLA. Jacek MØPLX, Janusz SP9FIH, and teenager Adrian SQ2RAD will be active as **VP2ELX**, **VP2EWE**, **VP2EAD** and respectively from Anguilla (NA-022) on March 3-20. They will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 160-6 meters. See <https://vp2.dxpedititions.org/> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).
-[425DXN # 1815 February 14, 2026] (0227-0320)

VP2M, MONTSERRAT. Chuck, KG9N had to **cancel** his planned activity as **VP2MCV**.
-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0306)

VP5, TURKS & CAICOS IS. John, N5VOF, and his sons Josiah, WD5JR, and Isaiah, KJ5CMP, are active until February 23rd from Caicos (NA-002), signing **VP5/N5VOF**, **VP5/WD5JR** and **VP5/KJ5CMP** from various POTA locations. QRV on 80 through 6 meters on CW and SSB. QSL with SASE to [N5VOF](#).
-[DXNL # 2498 February 18, 2026] (0220-0306)

VP9, BERMUDA. Darrell, AB2E will be active as **AB2E/VP9** from Bermuda (NA-005) on March 4th-10th. Main activity will be as **VP9I** during the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 7th-8th). Before and after the contest he will operate CW, RTTY and FT8 with a focus on the low and WARC bands. QSL AB2E/VP9 via LoTW, or direct to [AB2E](#); QSL VP9I via [WW3S](#).
-[425DXN # 1817 February 28, 2026] (0227-0313)

XU, CAMBODIA. Members of radio club **XU7AMO** plan to introduce a group of students to amateur radio until March 2nd. Activity is with a focus on Satellite QO-100, and LEO Satellites RS-44, SO-50, and FO-29. Club operators plan to demonstrate CW, SSB, and various digital modes as well. QSL via [NØMMA](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 26, 2026] (0227-0306)

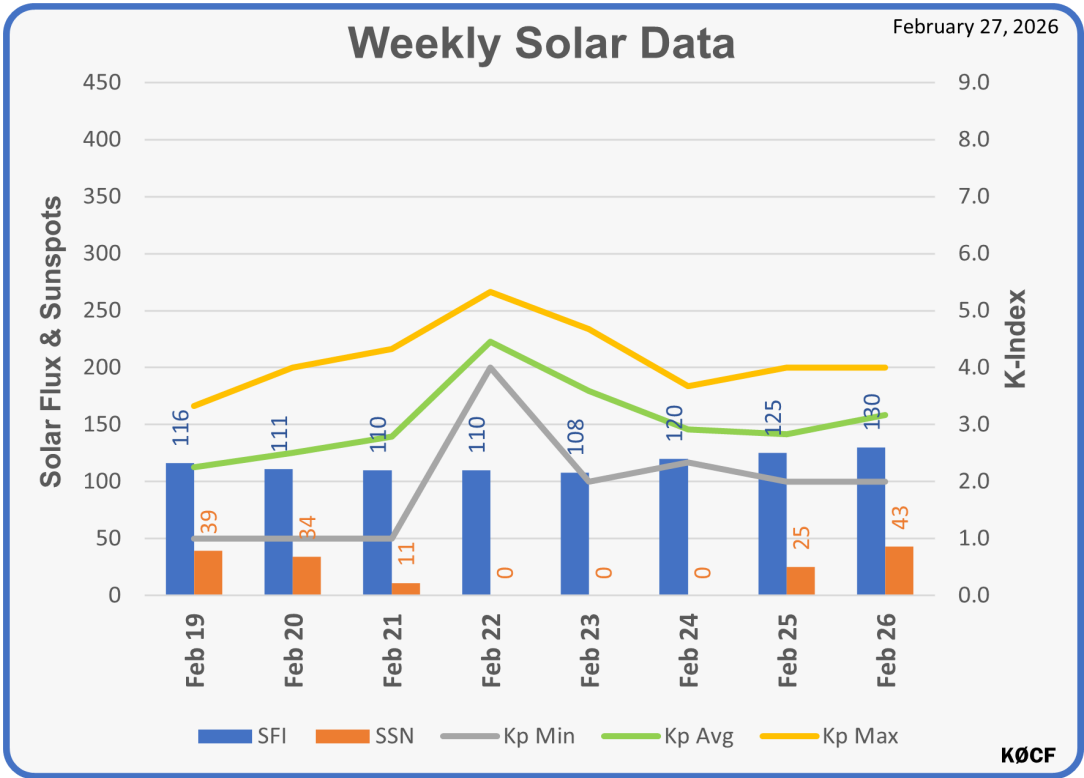
YU, SERBIA. Special event station **YT17ØTESLA** celebrates Nikola Tesla's 170th birthday until the end of the year.
-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0320)

Z6, KOSOVO. DL2JRM visits Kosovo as **Z66BCC** from **February 27th to March 2nd**. QSL via [DL2JRM](#).
-[DXNL # 2494 January 21, 2026] (0227-0306)

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN. Diya, YI1DZ, after a brief vacation in Bagdad, returns to Juba and resumes his activities as **Z81D** on SSB and FT8, 80-10 meters, including 60 meters. QSL via [OM3JW](#).
-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0227-0320)

ZC4, UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS. A five-man team (GM2TT, GM2WW, GM3JIM, GM5YTT, and GM6DX) will be active as **ZC4C** and **ZC4Z** from the UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus on **March 4th-11th**. They will run 2-3 stations on 80-10 meters CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8/FT4 (MSHV) and maybe even SSTV. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog.
-[425DXN # 1817 February 28, 2026] (0227-0313)

Propagation



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

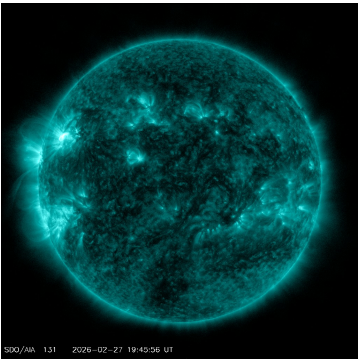
The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of

the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Thursday, February 19th through Thursday, February 26th.

The average solar flux was 116, down 2 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 130 on Thursday, February 26th, following a low of 108 on February 23rd.

The average sunspot count was 16, down by 39 from last week, peaking at 43 on Thursday, February 26th after a weekly low of 0 on February 24th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 4.2 with a maximum of 5.3 on Sunday, February 22nd, indicating a minor geomagnetic storm. The most recent K-index maximum was 4.0 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since February 20th has been quiet with only 1 major flare, which was an M 2.3 event on Wednesday, February 25th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Friday, February 20th through 1446 UTC, February 27th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Feb 25	1559	M 2.3

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Feb 27	25%	5%	132
Feb 28	25%	5%	132
Mar 1	25%	5%	132

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on February 23, 2026).

Date	Flux	Kp
Feb 27	122	2
Feb 28	122	2
Mar 1	122	2
Mar 2	125	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 3	125	2
Mar 4	125	2
Mar 5	125	4
Mar 6	130	4

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 7	130	3
Mar 8	130	2
Mar 9	125	3
Mar 10	122	5

A Minor CME Is Coming

A magnetic filament on the sun erupted Feb. 25th, hurling a minor CME toward Earth. [NOAA models](#) suggest it will arrive late on Feb. 28th, sparking, at most, [G1](#)-class geomagnetic storms. Arctic sky watchers should be alert for auroras mixed with moonlight.

(Copyright © [SpaceWeather.com](#) February 27, 2026. Republished by permission.)

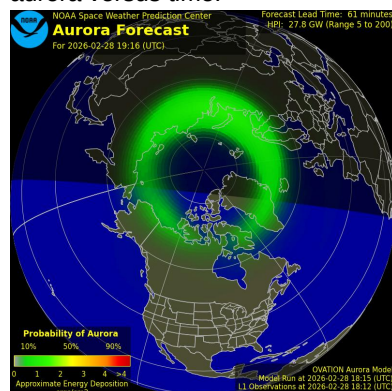
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:

 [Absorption](#)

The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio

navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

(Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources.)

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Feb 28	1800Z	Mar 1	0600Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	Mar 7	0000Z	Mar 8	2400Z	Rules
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 14	1400Z	Mar 15	2100Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 14	1500Z	Mar 15	1500Z	Rules
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 14	1900Z	Mar 15	1900Z	Rules
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 15	0000Z	Mar 15	0359Z	Rules
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 15	1800Z	Mar 16	0100Z	Rules
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 21	0200Z	Mar 23	0200Z	Rules
Russian DX Contest	Mar 21	1200Z	Mar 22	1200Z	Rules

Virginia QSO Party	Mar 21	1400Z	Mar 22	2400Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Mar 28	0000Z	Mar 29	2400Z	Rules
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 4	1400Z	Apr 5	0200Z	Rules
SP DX Contest	Apr 4	1500Z	Apr 5	1500Z	Rules
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	Apr 11	0000Z	Apr 11	2359Z	Rules
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 11	0700Z	Apr 12	1300Z	Rules
OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	Apr 11	1200Z	Apr 12	1159Z	Rules
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 11	1400Z	Apr 12	0200Z	Rules
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 11	1800Z	Apr 12	2359Z	Rules
CQMM DX Contest	Apr 18	0900Z	Apr 19	2359Z	Rules
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 18	1600Z	Apr 19	0400Z	Rules
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 18	1800Z	Apr 19	1800Z	Rules
Quebec QSO Party	Apr 19	1200Z	Apr 19	2200Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Apr 19	1800Z	Apr 19	2359Z	Rules
Florida QSO Party	Apr 25	1600Z	Apr 26	2159Z	Rules
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 2	1300Z	May 3	0700Z	Rules
Indiana QSO Party	May 2	1600Z	May 3	0400Z	Rules
Delaware QSO Party	May 2	1700Z	May 3	2359Z	Rules
New England QSO Party	May 2	2000Z	May 3	2400Z	Rules
CQ-M International DX Contest	May 9	1200Z	May 10	1159Z	Rules
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 16	1200Z	May 17	1200Z	Rules
Arkansas QSO Party	May 16	1400Z	May 17	0200Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 30	0000Z	May 31	2400Z	Rules

(Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#))